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BLACK TAKES ANOTHER STEP
TOWARD LONGTIME GOAL

Week of March 31, 1975

BUFFALO -- When Ross B. Cheairs Jr., 33, began work recently as assistant director of the Human Resources Institute at the State University of New York at Buffalo, he took one more step toward a longtime goal.

"My whole career has been -- and will be -- devoted to the upgrading of training and job opportunities for a wide variety of people," says Cheairs, who is black.

"I want to direct my efforts toward seeing that manpower programs help people, particularly the disadvantaged, find satisfying work."

Cheairs, who is "on loan" from his job as management/equal employment opportunity officer for the Labor Department's regional director in Atlanta, will be teaching and developing education programs for manpower officials.

He says: "The current state of the economy puts an even greater burden on the manpower practitioner to apply to today's problems the proven results of research already conducted.

"In other words, we in this field need time to stop and take a hard look at what we have been so busy doing over the past 10 years. I will have this opportunity at the university. It's a dream come true for me."

While at the university on a two-year assignment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (IPA), Cheairs will also be earning a doctor's degree in management.

The IPA is designed to encourage a temporary exchange of personnel between the federal government on one hand and state and local governments and higher educational institutions on the other.

This exchange is intended to improve delivery of government services at all levels.

A native of Jackson, Tenn., Cheairs was graduated from Fisk University in Nashville in 1963 with a degree in science and, 10 years later, earned his master's degree in management from the University of Utah under a workstudy program carried out in Atlanta by the university. He has worked in the U.S. Labor Department in Atlanta since 1969.

Cheairs is married to the former Eleanor Banks of Memphis. They have a five year old son, Ross III.

# # #

Week of March 31, 1975

DUNLOP SWORN IN AS NATION'S
14TH SECRETARY OF LABOR

WASHINGTON -- John T. Dunlop was sworn in as the Nation's 14th Secretary of Labor and said the "very first priority is to get the economy moving and to restore people to work."

The swearing in took place at a White House ceremony at which President Ford called Dr. Dunlop "uniquely skilled in obtaining practical solutions to the most complex of problems."

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Dunlop said:

"It is my hope that business, labor and government, working together, can address the immediate problems of the Nation while having a deep appreciation of our longer run necessities and opportunities, not only for the economy as a whole, but in individual sectors and industry and regions as well."

A Harvard University economist who has worked as a top level labor-management negotiator in many industries and for the government since World War II, Dr. Dunlop has been associated with the Labor Department as chairman or member of key disputes settlement boards and panels and in other capacities beginning in 1938.

Dr. Dunlop served as chairman of the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee from 1971 to 1973 and as director of the Cost of Living Council in 1973-4. He was appointed by the President as a member of the National Commission on Productivity in 1970 and became chairman in 1973.

The author of many books and articles on labor-management relations, inflation and other economic topics, Dr. Dunlop was born in Placerville, Calif., July 5, 1914. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1935 and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in 1939, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

(MORE)

In 1936-7, Dr. Dunlop was an acting instructor at Stanford University. He was a fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge University, England in 1937-8. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1938, becoming an associate professor in 1945 and a full professor in 1950.

During World War II, Dr. Dunlop worked with the National War Labor Board and was a consultant to the Office of Economic Stabilization and Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Among his many other assignments, he has been public member, Wage Adjustment Board, 1943-7; chairman, Board for Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes, 1948-57; member, Atomic Energy Labor Relations Panel, 1948-53; impartial chairman, Joint Administrative Committee, Construction Industry Joint Conference, 1959-68; public member, Kaiser Steel-Steelworkers Commission, 1960-8; public member, Presidential Railroad Commission, 1960-2; public member, Missile Sites Labor Commission, 1961-7; member, President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, 1964-5; chairman, National Manpower Policy Task Force, 1968-9; chairman, The Manpower Institute, 1960-present, and coordinator, President's Labor-Management Committee, 1974-present.

Dr. Dunlop is a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators, American Academy of Arts and Sciences and American Philosophical Society. He has been president of the Industrial Relations Research Association and the International Industrial Relations Research Association and a Guggenheim Fellow.

Dr. Dunlop was sworn in by Senior Judge Charles Fahy of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

# # #

Week of March 31, 1975

MINORITY YOUTHS TO GET CHANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIP

SANTA ANA, CA. -- About 240 minority youths in the southern California area (Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties, and Long Beach) will have a chance to become apprentices in the building and construction trades, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced.

Under a one-year apprenticeship outreach contract, Southern California Area Construction Opportunity Program (SCACOP) of Santa Ana will prepare youths, primarily from minority groups, to pass apprentice entrance exams in the building and construction trades. Federal funding is $257,400.

It is estimated about 2,400 recruits will benefit from classes in mathematics, reading, and other trade-related subjects, although only about 240 will qualify to take the final test. Staff members and journeymen in local AFL-CIO building and construction trades councils will serve as program tutors.

SCACOP and the building trades unions have placed more than 967 minority youths as apprentice carpenters, painters, cement masons, bricklayers, and plumbers through five previous contracts funded for $968,908.

# # #

8,156 JOB SAFETY HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN JANUARY

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Labor has announced that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) conducted 8,156 workplace inspections during January.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, who heads the federal job safety and health agency, said that as a result of those inspections, OSHA issued to employers 5,962 citations alleging 28,720 violations of job safety and health standards. Proposed penalties totaled $693,365.

Stender also reported that, beginning with the January data, OSHA information on monthly inspection activity shows breakdowns for each of 10 major industry categories. Reports now show cumulative data for the calendar year rather than the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) basis used earlier.

The new format is in response to many requests for more detailed information showing OSHA activity in various industries.

Since its inception April 28, 1971, through January 1975, OSHA made 206,163 inspections resulting in 140,467 citations alleging 724,582 violations, with proposed penalties totaling $18,186,627.

# # #

Week of March 31, 1975

JOB TITLES CHANGED

WASHINGTON -- Major league baseball players may have to learn to call the "bat boy" the "bat keeper."

And, the city editor's call for a "copy boy" may get no response unless he says "copy messenger."

These are some of the results stemming from changes made in the U.S. Labor Department's Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) to rid the publication of age and sex connotations.

Nearly 3,500 job titles had to be revised to achieve some degree of neutrality and sexlessness among the 35,000 job titles in the book.

The job was done to minimize any inequity or discrimination that might come about through using job titles with sex or age in recruitment and hiring practices.

The main DOT will not be published until 1976. However, the Labor Department's Manpower Administration will issue a publication containing the revisions in the near future and will be for sale by the Superintendent of Documents.

The following are other illustrations of changes made:

Old Title	Revised Title
Airplane Stewardess	Airplane Flight Attendant
Animal Husbandman	Animal Scientist
Bellyman (musical instruments)	Belly Builder
Surveying Axman	Surveying Brush Clearer
Binman (roofing materials)	Dust Box Worker
Bobbin Man (glass mfg.)	Bobbin-Winder Tender
Bondsman	Bonding Agent
Boom Man (logging)	Log Sorter
Brewmaster (malt liquors)	Brewing Director

(MORE)

Old Title	Revised Title
Bridal Consultant	Wedding Consultant
Bus Boy (hotel & rest.)	Dining Room Attendant
Fisherman	Fisher
Foreman	Supervisor
Governess	Child Mentor
Hat-Check Girl	Hat-Check Attendant
Headmaster (education)	Private School Principal
Maid (dom. ser.)	Houseworker
New Car Salesman	New Car Sales Associate
Noodle Man (chem.)	Noodle-Catalyst Maker
Salesman	Salesperson
Seamstress	Custom Sewer
Song and Dance Man	Song and Dance Person
Take-Off Girl (rubber goods)	Form Stripper
Take-Off Man (electrical equip.)	Battery Plate Remover
Valet (dom. ser.)	Gentleman's Attendant
Yarn-Testing Weighman (textiles)	Yarn-Weight-and-Strength-Tester

# # #

Week of March 31, 1975

REAL EARNINGS IN FEBRUARY 1975

WASHINGTON -- Real gross average weekly earnings of workers on production or nonsupervisory jobs in the private nonfarm sector of the economy dropped 0.5 percent from January to February, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The figures are preliminary but seasonally adjusted.

This decrease was the result of a 0.3 percent decline in average weekly hours and a 0.6 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index which more than offset a 0.5 percent increase in average hourly earnings.

Over the year, real average weekly earnings were down 4.3 percent. A rise of 11.1 percent in the Consumer Price Index and a drop of 1.9 percent in average weekly hours overcame an 8.4 percent increase in average hourly earnings.

Before adjustment for the increase in the Consumer Price Index and for seasonal change, average weekly earnings were $157.88 in February, compared with $148.56 a year earlier.

Real spendable earnings--average real weekly pay of all workers reduced by Social Security and federal income tax rates applicable to a married worker with three dependents--fell 0.5 percent from January, seasonally adjusted.

Over the year, real spendable earnings were down 5.0 percent owing to the 4.3 percent decline in real weekly earnings and a 0.7 percent increase in the-effect of taxes.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power was 106.3 in February, seasonally adjusted, up 0.1 percent from January. Compared with a year ago, the index is 1.3 percent lower. The index excludes the effects of overtime in manufacturing and of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

# # #

Week of March 31, 1975

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--FEBRUARY 1975

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index rose 0.7 percent in February to 157.2 (1967-100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Increases in a wide range of goods and services, including medical care services, utilities, rent, houses, clothing, fresh fruits and vegetables, and products containing sugar accounted for the rise in the February CPI. The effect of these increases was partially offset by lower prices for meats, sugar, and used cars.

In February 1975, the CPI was 11.1 percent higher than in February 1974. The food index was 8.9 percent, the nonfood commodities index 12.2 percent, and the services index 11.5 percent above their levels of February 1974.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the rise in the February CPI was 0.6 percent. The increase was the same as in January. The rise in food prices was much smaller than in January, but the increase in nonfood commodities was larger. The CPI rose 0.7 percent in December, and 0.9 percent in both November and October.

The food index rose 0.1 percent in February after seasonal adjustment, much less than in January and the smallest increase in 7 months. The slowdown in February was primarily due to declines in beef, pork, poultry, and sugar prices. Prices of sugar-based products, however, continued to rise rapidly.

Prices of most other grocery store foods--notably fresh fruits and vegetables and eggs--and prices of restaurant meals also rose in February.

The nonfood commodities index rose 0.8 percent after seasonal adjustment. Although larger than in either of the 2 preceding months, the February increase was less than increases in the first 9 months of 1974. The new car index, which declined in December and January, rose in February, reflecting higher prices for imported cars. The index for apparel commodities also increased following 2 months of decline.

(MORE)

Prices of many other commodities, particularly nondurable goods, continued to rise rapidly. Increases in prices of household durables, however, were smaller than in recent months.

The index for services increased 0.8 percent in February, about the same as in each of the preceding 4 months. Charges for medical care services and utilities continued to rise rapidly in February, while increases in charges for home repair and personal care services were smaller than in recent months, and mortgage interest rates continued to decline.

The index for food purchased in grocery stores--the major portion of the food index--increased 0.4 percent, slightly less than the usual seasonal increase for February. A large part of the increase was due to higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, which rose more than seasonally, and large increases in prices of bakery products and other sugar-based products. Prices of dairy products also rose.

The effect of these increases was partially offset by declines in sugar, beef, pork, and poultry prices. Meat and poultry prices usually rise in February. Prices for processed fruits and vegetables declined slightly. Egg prices also decreased, but much less than they usually do in February. The index for food away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--rose 0.9 percent, about the same as in recent months.

The nonfood commodities index increased 0.7 percent instead of decreasing slightly as it usually does in February. About two-thirds of the increase stemmed from higher prices for houses, apparel, housekeeping supplies, and alcoholic beverages. The increase in the apparel index--which was somewhat larger than usual for February--reflected higher introductory prices for spring items.

Prices of most other non-durable goods such as textile housefurnishings, toilet goods, drugs and prescriptions, tobacco products, gasoline, and fuel oil also increased.

(MORE)

In addition, the new car index rose instead of declining as it usually does in February, and there were increases in prices of appliances and recreational goods. The used car index continued to decline, but less than in December or January.

The services index increased 0.8 percent in February. Almost a fourth of the rise resulted from higher charges for medical care services--both physicians' fees and hospital services.

Charges for all types of household services increased except mortgage interest rates. Gas, electricity, and water and sewerage rates rose sharply. Charges for housekeeping services and rent increased. Among other services, there were large increases in charges for auto repairs and drycleaning services and in taxi-cab fares.

# # #

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Next week's column will deal with vinyl chloride, the chemical which is used as a propellant in some aerosol products and which has been linked to liver cancer.

Dear Consumer

Spray With Care

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

They are convenient, those aerosol cans. We use them to spray all kinds of products—paints, cleaners, insecticides, deodorants.

But they do need to be handled with care.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says that these spray cans—pressurized by chemical propellants—present three risks to consumers:

They may explode (as result of high heat or puncturing).

They may be flammable (if used near matches, lit cigarettes or open flames).

They may be toxic (if large quantities are inhaled in an unventilated room).

CPSC reports that nearly 5,000 persons received emergency room treatment every year for injuries associated with aerosols.

Nevertheless, you may want the convenience of aerosols. You can minimize the risks if you:

- Read instructions on can.
- Have good ventilation when spraying indoors.
- Don't smoke while spraying.
- Don't use sprays near heating appliances, gas stoves or other flame or heat sources.
- Keep your body well covered and wash exposed areas after spraying a household product—especially insecticides.
- Stop use at first sign of dizziness, nausea, headache, blurred vision or skin irritation. Seek fresh air quickly; call doctor if symptoms persist or are severe.
- Don't use near food.
- Store containers in cool place.
- Don't expose cans to direct sunlight, radiators, stoves or other heat sources.
- Don't store aerosols in car during hot weather.
- Keep aerosols out of reach of children; teach them of dangers.
- Dispose of aerosols with non-burnable trash.
- Do not puncture containers. Never use devices on market for puncturing aerosol cans; these can be dangerous.
- Do not throw "empty" aerosols in incinerators or trash compactors. They still contain propellants that may cause explosions.
- For more details, request CPSC's free fact sheet on aerosols. Write to **Accident Prevention in the Home,** Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

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Week of March 31, 1975

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

An Exemplary Rehabilitation Certificate is available to certain ex-servicemen who have been dishonorably discharged but who have had good records since, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Manpower Administration.

# # #

The U.S. Labor Department's Manpower Administration operates a nationwide bonding program through state employment services for ex-offenders who do not qualify for fidelity bonds.

# # #

In addition to lists of job and training opportunities, most state employment service offices provide free aptitude testing and counseling, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

# # #

Under the Work Experience and Career Exploration Plan (WECEP), the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration and state education departments in 13 states are cooperating to help 14 and 15-year-olds hold a variety of jobs during school hours.

# # #

The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women performing similar work under similar conditions in the same establishment receive the same pay if their jobs require equal skill, effort and responsibility, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration.

# # #